THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. According to information provided by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam, durng 1991, upto 10-12-91, 19 rhinos were poached in the area, including 4 killed outside the Park. The Park protection staff succeeded in recovering 8 horns from the above poaching cases. No poaching of deer has been reported from the area.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Steps taken to protect the wildlife of the Park and of the country in general include:

(1) The endangered animals like the rhino,tiger, sloth bear, swamp deer, hoolock gibbon, etc, found in the Kaziranga National Park are included in the Schedules I and II (Part II) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus giving the species maximum possible protection under the law.

(2) Financial assistance under the Centrally sponsored scheme 'Conservation of rhinos in Assam' is provided to the Kaziranga National Parks and other protected areas in Assam where the rhino is found, to strengthen protection measures and also to take other measures against floods, fires, encroachment, etc.

(3) Assistance under the Centrally sponsored scheme 'Project Tiger', 'Assistance for the development of national parks and sanctuaries' and 'Ecodevolopment around national parks and Sancturaies, including Tiger Reserves', is provided to the State Governments for the establishment, expansion and development of a network of sanctuaries and national parks with the objective of conserving and protecting wildlife and its habitats.

(4) Under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, stringent punishments have been prescribed for causing any disturbance to the wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. There is also a complete ban on the hunting of wildlife.

(5) Under the Centrally sponsored 'Control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products', assistance is provided to the State Governments to strengthen measures to protect wildlife outside wildlife reserves from poaching and illegal trade.

(6) India is a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), under which international trade in endangered species of wildlife is prohibited.

(7) A system of reward and incentives to detect poaching and illegal trade in wildlife has been introduced by the Central and State Governments.

Shrinking of Forests in the country

3032. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of shrinkage of forest during 1989, 1990, 1991 as against the forest cover in the beginning of 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992, State-wise;

(b) the extent of such shrinking since the first survey of forest cover was made, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to prevent such forest degradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Forest Survey of India has carried out the assessment of actual forest cover of the country based on the visual interpretation of satellite imageries in 3 cycles so far. First Cycle pertains to the period 1981—83, Second cycle to 1985—87 and the third cycle relates to the period 1987—89.

State-wise comparative situation of actual forest cover as obtained in the Ist, IInd and IIIrd assessments is given in the Statement attached. (*See* below).

(c) The Government have taken following steps to prevent degradation of forests:

1. The National Forest Policy, 1988 lays more emphasis on conservation of forests.

2. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.

3. A Centrally sponsored scheme is under implementation to help the State to develop infrastructure for protection of forests against biotic interference.

4. Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture etc.

6. Import Policy for timber has been liberalised.

7. Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.

8. Guidelines have been issued to State/U.T. Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:

(i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such felling is inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to an area not exceeding 10 hectars in the hills and 25 hectares in the plain.

(ii) To consider bannig of felling in the hills above 1,000 meteres, atleast for some years.

(iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountain which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) To set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protected area like wildlife sanctuaries, national, parks, biosphere reserves etc.

9. Massive afforestation programme is under implementation under the 20 Point Programme.

Statement

Forest cover Comparative situation (1987, 1989 *and* 1991)

(Area sq. km.)

Sl. No.	State/UTs.	1987 Assess - ment based on imagery 1981-83	1989 Assess- ment based on imagery 1985-87	1991 Assess ment based on imagery 1987-89
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	50194	47911	47911
2	Arunachal Pradesh	60500	68763	68518
3	Assam	26386	26058	25977
4	Bihar	28784	26934	26934
5	Goa (including) Daman& Div.	1285	1300	1302
6	Gujarat	13570	11670	11656
7	Haryana	644	563	563
8	Himachal Pradesh	12882	13377	13377
9	Jammu and Kashmir	20880	20424	20424
10	Karnataka	32264	32100	32195
11	Kerala	10402	10149	10149
12	Madhya Pradesh	127749	133191	133191
13	Maharashtra	47416	44058	44058
14	Manipur	17679	17885	17885
15	Meghalaya	16511	15690	15920
16	Mizoram	19092	18178	18861
17	Nagaland	14351	14356	14278
18	Orissa	53163	47137	47115
19	Punjab	766	1161	1164
20	Rajasthan	12478	12966	12971
21	Sikkim	2839	3124	3124
22	Tamilnadu	18380	17715	17715
23	Tripura	5743	5325	5325
24	Uttar Pradesh	31443	33844	33826
25	West Bengal	8811	8394	8394
26	Andaman & Nicobar Island	7603	7624	7624

1	2	3	4	5
27	Chandigarh	2	8	8
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	237	205	205
29	Daman / Diu	..	2	..
30	Delhi	15	22	22
31	Lakshadweep	..	..	..
32	Pondicherry	8	..	..
	TOTAL	642041	640134	640694

Environmental Pollution by Cement Factories in Yerragunta

3033. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the three cement factories at Yerragunta in Andhra Pradesh are causing severe environmental pollution by not using dust-filters; and

(b) if so, what action Government are contemplating to minimise environmental pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Yes, Sir. All the cement factories at Yerraguntla in Andhra Pradesh are only partially complying with emission standards.

(b) Notices under the relevant Act have been served to M/s. Cement Corporation of India Limited and M/s. Texamco Limited in February, 1992. M/s. India Cement Limited has under-taken to instal necessary equiment in the Financial year 1992-93.

Impact of water and air pollution

3034. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article published in the "Times of India", Bombay, on the 10th February, 1992, under the caption "Karnataka unit turns Tungabhadra to coffee";

(b) whether Government have assessed the impact of water and air pollution caused by the Harihar Polifibers and Grasim Industries on human beings, animals and plant life and on the environment around the area; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to eradicate harmful effects of water and air pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The impact of water and air pollution has been assessed and the findings are as given below:

(i) The study on the morbidity on the population living in the vici-